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Dec. 6, 2000
Date

Kay Nutt
Kay Nutt

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kin Li
Minas Tanielian

Group Art Unit: 1746

Application No.:

Examiner: S. Ahmed

Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith

Docket No.: 94-348D

Date: 12/6/00

For: *Surface Modification Using An Atmospheric Pressure Glow discharge Plasma Source*

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The accompanying patent application is a divisional application of Serial No. 09/206,777. Please review this preliminary amendment prior to consideration of the divisional application.

In the Specification

At page 1, line 5, after the words "is a" please insert -- divisional application of continuation-in-part application Serial No. 09/206,777, filed December 7, 1998, which is a--

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1, 3 and 4.

Please renumber Claim 2 as claim 1 in the present application.

REMARKS

This divisional application contains original claim 2 (to be numbered as claim 1) corresponding to the Group II restriction requirement made December 15, 1999 in the parent application. This claim is drawn to a sterilization process, classified in class 134, subclass 1+.

Two additional divisional applications on original claims 1 and 4 in the parent application are being concurrently filed corresponding to the Group I and Group IV restriction requirements made December 15, 1999 in the parent application. The Group I claim is drawn to a trimming process for thick-film polymeric resistors, classified in class 216, subclass 13; the Group IV claim is drawn to a cleaning process, classified in class 134, subclass 1.1.

As a consequence, it is believed that Claim 1 (formerly Claim 2) proffered for the Examiner's consideration contains allowable subject matter, which Notice is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, including fees for extension of time, which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this amendment without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 02-2960.

Respectfully submitted,



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